country in petroleum sector, foreign investments and development and exploration of new oil fields ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A strategic Planning group on restructuring of oil industry has been set up with the following terms of reference :

(i) Assess the emerging global Oil and Gas scene; trends in exploration and production, refining capacities, pattern of demand for products and crude oil, movement of international prices, development of alternate fuels and evolvement of new technology and R&D.

(ii) Assess the role of Oil & Natural Gas on long term basis in meeting the commercial energy requirement of the increasingly globalised Indian economy.

(iii) Identify the role of Government and the market forces for restructuring and developing a self-reliant and robust Indian Oil Industry with International cost competitivenes and globle presence.

(iv) Analyse strength and weakness of the Indian Oil Industry and develop strategic action plan for reform keeping in focus environment and ecology, sustanable growth and provide the national economy the "energy security".

(d) The above Group has not yet submitted its Report.

(e) Parallel marketing by private parties has been introduced in respect of Kerosene, LPG and LSHS. Upto September, 94. 27749 MTs of LPG, 292 TMTs of SKO and 202 of LSHS have been imported by the private parties. Naphta has been put under OGL. Import of FO and ATF has also been permitted under SIL. Investment by 9 private parties in refinery sector and some joint ventures in marketing and exploration have been firmed up. The anticipated benefits from the award of exploration blocks and discovered fields are likely to be induction of foreign capital, access to the latest technology and early augmentation to production and additional accretion to hydrocarbon reserves.

Delay in Providing LPG Connections to Consumers

2398. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the waiting list for LPG connections has crossed the 2 million mark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the present indications, an applicant has to wait for 7 years for getting a new connection; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that parallel marketing of LPG connection has yet to take off, if so, what are the reasons for delay in providing LPG connections to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The waiting list as on 1-10-1994 is about 11.5 millions. In some locations, waiting list is quite old. Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible by augmenting product availability through higher production from existing sources, commissioning of new production sources and imports.

(c) The private agencies are excepted to commence activities under the said scheme depending on their commercial decision. However, much progress has not been noticed so far, which is basically on account of lack of import facilities with parallel marketeers. Some of them have taken action to develop their own import facilities and other infrastructure.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps/Gas Agencies on out of turn basis

2399. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Supreme Court was examining the matter of discretionary authority of the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas to sanction LPG agencies and petrol pumps on out-of-turn/adhoc basis, as was reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated, 17th December, 1993;

(b) if so, has the Court gone into the matter and given any pronouncement on the subject;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the number of petrol pumps and LPG outlets sanctioned on adhoc/out-of-turn basis by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas in each of the last three years, giving the names of the persons to whom sanctioned, at what places and the specific reasons/grounds therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Public Interest Litigation challenging the discretionary authority of the Government to allot dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is presently pending before the

Supreme Court of India. Hearing is in progress.

(d) The dealerships/distributorships under discretionary powers are allotted on compassionate grounds depending upon the circumstances of each case and the necessity for such allotment. Yearwise details of dealerships/distributorships allotted under discretionary powers during the last three years are indicated below:

Year	RO	LPG
1992-93 . . .	19	64
1993-94 . . .	55	57
1994-95 (April-October)	36	34

Stoppage of work by ONGC on certain Sites

2400. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of ONGC at the various sitea Tosezu-1, HN-1 Champang, Dhansiri and others have been stopped or hampered during this year; if so, the details together with the reasons of stoppage;

(b) what is the estimated loss to ONGC each month at each place; and

(c) what steps have been taken to commence production and exploration work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Naga Students Federation demanded that ONGC stop its activities in Nagaland and the licences/permits provided by the State Government to ONGC be revoked. They also demanded that the system of royalty be worked out again and made more beneficial to Naga people.

(b) The loss to ONGC from production at Champang and overheads is estimated to be around Rs. 5 crores per month.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the State Government of Nagaland and the Union Home Ministry to permit ONGC to restart operations.

Requirement of LPG in Punjab

2401. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total requirement of LPG in the country particularly in the State of Punjab for the next three years;

(b) whether our indigenous production will meet this requirement;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The LPG production and demand estimated for the next three years are as under :

Figures in TMTPA

Year	LPG Production Estimate (Revised)	Demand Estimate (Revised)
1994-95 . . .	2756	3400
1995-96 . . .	2753	3726
1996-97 . . .	2808	4055

The Public Sector oil Companies are meeting the full demand of their existing customers. The shortfall in the indigenous availability and the consumption is being/proposed to be met through import. The LPG production is expected to increase from about 2.75 MMT in 1994-95 to about 4.75 MMT in 2001-2002 through the commissioning of new refineries and fractionators and agumentation of LPG production capacity from public sector facilities at some of the existing sources. This does not include LPG availability from private sector sources. LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore each with annual import capacity of 600 TMTPA are expected to be commissioned during the last quarter of the year 1996.

Inviting private investors for long gestation projects

2402. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have invited private investors in its capital intensive and long gestation projects ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what is the response received from the private investors and whether Government consider it to be encouraging ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) (i) Railways have recently launched 'Build-Own-Lease-Transfer' (BOLT) scheme for projects which are capital intensive in nature. The details of various projects tentatively identified for being offered under this scheme are :